

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14674 091823Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----009150 091826Z /46

P 091818Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0126  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14674

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR IS EG  
SUBJECT: THE RISING LEVEL OF RHETORIC

REF: TEL AVIV 7321

1. I SHARE SAM LEWIS'S REGRET THAT SADAT, IN HIS RECENT SPEECHES TO SECOND AND THIRD ARMIES, SHOULD AGAIN HAVE ALLUDED TO WARFARE. ALTHOUGH DEPT SPOKESMAN HAS POINTED OUT SADAT'S COMMENTS FOCUSED ON HIS CONTINUING DESIRE SEE ME PEACE PROCESS REACTIVATED, HIS ADD-ONS ABOUT RESORTING TO WAR AS LAST RESORT WERE UNHELPFUL AND PLAY INTO ISRAELI HANDS AS EVIDENCED BY BEGIN'S SINGLING THEM OUT. SADAT'S COMMENTS WERE CLEARLY SHAPED BY COMBINATION OF HIS AUDIENCE (OFFICERS AND MEN OF TWO PRINCIPAL ARMIES), FACT THAT SPEECHES WERE GIVEN ON THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 1967 WAR, SIMPLE FRUSTRATION OVER WHAT HE PERCEIVES AS ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, A GROWING SENSE THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND BY A GENERAL TESTINESS WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED HIS ACTIONS IN RECENT WEEKS.

2. SADAT IS TOO PRUDENT TO ADMIT THIS, BUT BOTH VP MUBARAK AND FONMIN KAMEL HAVE ON OCCASION CLAIMED THAT HE REGRETS HIS HANDLING OF JERUSALEM VISIT AND SUBSEQUENT  
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ISMAILIA MINI-SUMMIT. SPECIFICALLY, SADAT HAS COME TO REALIZE THAT HIS UNQUALIFIED STATEMENTS TO BEGIN ON THOSE TWO OCCASIONS ABOUT "OCTOBER 1973 WAR WILL BE THE LAST BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL" AND THAT GOE WOULD BE PREPARED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AS PART OF A "PACKAGE" DEAL WAS IN EFFECT GIVING AWAY MAJOR EGYPTIAN CARDS" WITHOUT GETTING ANYTHING MEANINGFUL IN RETURN. HE DID

SO TO DEMONSTRATE HIS GOOD WILL AND, SOMEWHAT NAIVELY, IS NOW CHAGRINED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE POCKETED THESE MAJOR CONCESSIONS WITHOUT SHOWING MUCH FLEXIBILITY ON OTHER MATTERS. SADAT HAS COME TO REALIZE THAT BEGIN IS USING HIS "NO MORE WAR" PLEDGE AS SHIELD BEHIND WHICH TO BARGAIN FOR VARIOUS TERRITORIAL AND MILITARY CONCESSIONS.

3. SADAT IS CRITICISED, BOTH HERE AND IN ARAB WORLD, FOR HIS "NO MORE WAR" AND NORMALIZATION PLEDGES ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE GAVE AWAY STRONGEST ARAB CARDS AND SADAT IS KEENLY AWARE OF THIS CRITICISM. APART FROM GAIN IN U.S. PUBLIC OPINION, HE HAS LITTLE TO WHICH HE CAN POINT AS A QUID PRO QUO. BEGIN'S OFFER TO RECOGNIZE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY IN SINAI WAS, IN EGYPTIAN EYES, VITIATED BY CONCURRENT ISRAELI DEMANDS RE RETAINING SETTLEMENTS AND AIR BASES.

4. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, TALK OF WAR BY SADAT IS LITTLE MORE THAN POSTURING. NEVERTHELESS, SADAT WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO KEEP IT IN THE MESS HALLS AS SAM LEWIS HAS SUGGESTED. THE BEST WAY TO GET HIM TO DO SO IS IF MEANINGFUL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS CAN SOMEHOW BE REACTIVATED THIS IN TURN WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON THE NATURE OF THE ISRAELI RESPONSES TO OUR TWO QUESTIONS AND ON WHAT WE DO. I INTEND TO SAY A WORD TO SADAT WHEN I MEET WITH HIM IN NEXT FEW DAYS THAT, WHILE HIS IMPATIENCE IS UNDER-CONFIDENTIAL

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STANDABLE, HE IS DAMAGING HIS VERY POSITIVE AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC IMAGE BY THIS KIND OF TALK. PROBLEM IS THAT WHILE SADAT DELIGHTS AT HIS BURNISHED PUBLIC IMAGE IN U.S., HE HAS ALSO RUEFULLY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT HAS PRODUCED LITTLE IN BRINGING THE ISRAELIS AROUND. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 09 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014